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has been strengthened by the presence of such an army near the border. Those who have been opposed to the Diaz administration have hastened to press their campaign, believing that if they could involve the United States forces in the affair they would be able the more quickly to overthrow the existing administration. There has been serious danger also of an explosion along the border. The lawless Mexicans, and even some regular troops, have been reported to have fired across the line. That an explosion has not occurred has been almost miraculous, and has been to the credit of those in charge of the troops.

The whole situation has reminded one of the events of 1845-46, and has naturally produced much uneasiness on the part of those of our citizens who have deeply felt the shame and disgrace of the Mexican War. If a serious explosion had occurred as a result of the massing of this army of twenty thousand men on the border, we should doubtless have seen another war started and some very disgraceful history repeat itself. The Mexican government and responsible statesmen have been deeply disturbed by the big mobilization on the border, and our government has been kept busy denying rumors and giving assurances of friendly and peaceful intentions. President Taft's pacific and tactful management of the situation has been most creditable; but why could he not, as commander-in-chief of the army, have had the mobilization occur elsewhere, and thus have saved the unfortunate consequences which have followed? A letter just received from Canada informs us that our neighbors to the north have also been very greatly disturbed by this mobilization on the Mexican border.

The outlook as we write has brightened very much, and we believe that any serious disaster will be avoided, but if we had had another sort of President, the conditions of a lawless invasion have been at hand and an imperial and jingoistic adventure in behalf of investments of our citizens in Mexico would have been difficult to avoid. Perhaps the lessons of the Cuban War have been useful in restraining us.

The friends of peace have had furnished them by this event another keen argument to support their campaign against further increase of armaments. The bigger armaments become, so much the more restless they grow and the more sure they are to stir up the jingo and imperialist mind to mischievous activity.

President Taft has done well in assuring the Mexican government that our intentions have been only peaceful and that they need have no fear. But if the insurrection in Northern Mexico furnished any occasion whatever for our government to take action in the interests of order and security of life and property, diplomatic channels certainly would have been found sufficient to meet the situation if efforts had been made in that direction. The experiment of mobilizing the great body of troops on the border was essentially a

perilous one, which, it is to be hoped, will never be repeated. Our credit as a pacific nation has been a good deal discounted abroad by the events of the last twelve or thirteen years, and this mobilization has certainly done nothing to redeem it.

### **The Unlimited Arbitration Treaty with Great Britain.**

Extraordinary interest has been awakened in both this country and Great Britain by the favorable spirit in which the British government has responded to President Taft's suggestion of an unlimited treaty of arbitration between the two countries. We are publishing on another page, for the benefit of our readers, that portion of the British Foreign Minister's great speech on armaments in the House of Commons, March 13, which bears upon the subject of the proposed treaty.

This speech of Sir Edward Grey makes it clear that the British government is just as ready as ours for this pact of perpetual peace between the two English-speaking nations. The peoples of the two countries are, we are sure, with certain special exceptions, solidly with the governments. This will be made clear by the great popular demonstrations soon to occur on both sides of the water. The ministers of the Free Church Federation in Great Britain have led off in this demonstration by devoting a Sunday to pleading for the speedy creation of this bond of brotherhood and peace between the two kindred peoples. Wherever possible, let all friends of peace in this country aid in promoting public demonstrations in behalf of the treaty. The government at Washington deserves to have, must have, the strongest possible support of the country in this extremely important undertaking.

The treaty is now being prepared by Secretary of State Knox and Ambassador Bryce, and the President expects to have it ready for submission to the Senate at the forthcoming extra session of Congress. It will be drawn, so it is reported, in such a way as to avoid the constitutional objections which were raised against the Olney-Pauncefote treaty of 1897. There is reason, therefore, to expect that it will quickly receive the approval of the Senate and be ratified by the two governments.

That will be a great day in the history of the movement for world peace. The example thus set will be hard to resist.

### **Organization of the Carnegie Peace Foundation**

The trustees of the Carnegie Peace Fund met in Washington in the Carnegie Institution March 9 for organization. All of the members of the Board except six were present.